

Memorandum

Community Services



Date: August 18, 2004
To: Fall Baseball Coaches, Umpires and Staff
From: Bobbi Jones, Recreation Coordinator
Subject: Fall Baseball BALK Rule

FALL BASEBALL BALK RULE

**TEMPE PARKS AND RECREATION
13/14 YR. OLD DIVISION**

NOTE: UMPIRES SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE BALK RULE IS TO PREVENT THE PITCHER FROM DELIBERATELY DECEIVING THE BASE RUNNER. IF THERE IS DOUBT IN THE UMPIRE'S MIND, THE "INTENT" OF THE PITCHER SHOULD GOVERN.

BECAUSE THIS IS A DEVELOPMENTAL LEAGUE WE HAVE PUT IN BOLD THOSE INFRACTIONS TO CONCENTRATE ON THIS FALL.

A BALK IS :

WHEN TOUCHING THE PITCHING PLATE:

- A. Pitcher, makes a pitching motion and fails to deliver the pitch**
- B. Pitcher, fails to step directly towards a base before throwing to that base**
- C. Pitcher, feints a throw to first base and fails to complete the throw**
- D. Pitcher, throws or feints a throw to an unoccupied base, except for the purpose of making a play**
- E. Pitcher makes an illegal pitch; Umpires will judge a quick pitch as one delivered before the batter is reasonably set in the batter's box. NOTE: A quick pitch is an illegal pitch. Umpires will judge a quick pitch as one delivered before the batter is reasonably set in the batter's box. With runners on base penalty is a balk; with no runners on base, it is a ball.**
- F. Pitcher delivers a pitch from a set position without coming to a stop**
- G. Pitcher, accidentally or intentionally drops the ball**

WHEN NOT TOUCHING THE PITCHING PLATE:

- A. Makes a pitching motion and fails to deliver the pitch**
- B. Without having the ball, stands on or astride the pitchers plate – interpreted as intent to deceive and ruled a balk**

**ILLEGAL PITCH – BALK NOT ASSOCIATED WITH THE PITCHING MOTION
OR BASE RUNNER:**

- A. Quick pitch – delivered before the batter is reasonably set
- B. Pitcher delivers a ball when not facing the batter
- C. Intentional base on balls – pitches when the catcher is not in the catcher's box
- D. Pitcher unnecessarily delays the game

“PENALTY: THE BALL IS DEAD, AND EACH RUNNER SHALL ADVANCE WITHOUT LIABILITY TO BE PUT OUT UNLESS THE BATTER REACHES FIRST ON A HIT, AN ERROR, A BASE ON BALLS, A HIT BATTER OR OTHERWISE, AND ALL OTHER RUNNERS ADVANCE AT LEAST ONE BASE IN WHICH CASE THE PLAY PROCEEDS WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE BALK. WHEN A BALK IS CALLED AND THE PITCH IS DELIVERED IT WILL BE CONSIDERED NEITHER A BALL NOR STRIKE UNLESS THE PITCH IS BALL FOUR (4) AWARDED THE BATTER FIRST BASE AND FORCING ALL RUNNERS ON BASE TO ADVANCE. (NOTE: Umpires should bear in mind that the purpose of the balk rule is to prevent the pitcher from deliberately deceiving the base runner. If there is doubt in the umpire's mind, the “intent” of the pitcher should govern. However, certain specifics should be borne in mind:

1. Straddling the pitcher's plate without the ball is to be interpreted as intent to deceive and ruled a balk.
2. With a runner on first base and the runner attempting to steal second, the pitcher may make a complete turn, without hesitating toward first, and throw to second. This is not to be interpreted as throwing to an unoccupied base.”

APPROVED RULING: If the pitcher violates any of the above stated requirements, and throws wild to a base, the runner or runners, may advance at their own risk.

(Delayed dead ball.)

APPROVE RULING: A runner who misses the first base to which that runner is advancing and who called out on appeal shall be considered as having advanced one base for the purpose of this rule.